

David R. Mazza KB9EI
366 S. McKinley Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
Jan 02 2003

Dear Sirs,

I am opposed to the automatic upgrading of Novice and Advanced class license holders to the next higher class, based just on the fact that they were licensed for 20 years or more holding that class of license. Many Hams keep their license current just for the sake of it, and are not active and do not keep up with current technologies and developed operating skills. The Amateur service needs an incentive to attract and develop good operators in times of emergency and disaster. Those skills come from one's initiative and willingness to test for a higher class of license. It is also unfair to the rest of the Amateur community that have already done it the right way, as it has been done for many long years. We have already dropped the Morse code as a requirement, now Mr. Reich wants to further dumb down the requirements. Please do not consider his request as being the right way to encourage better operating skills on the Amateur bands.

Very sincerely, David R Mazza